

REMARKS

Claims 1-12. No amendments have been made by way of the present submission, thus, no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action the Examiner has required that Applicants elect one of the following three groups and alleges that the claims lack unity of invention.

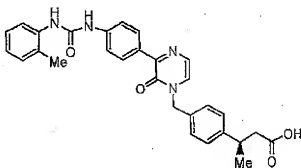
I. Group I: Claims 1-12, 13-15, 16 and 20, drawn to a compound, method of preparation and composition of formula (I) or (II).

II. Group II: Claim 16, drawn to a method of using the compound of formula (I) in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of conditions in which an inhibitor of alpha-4 integrin mediated cell adhesion is beneficial.

III. Group III: Claims 16 and 17-19, drawn to a method for the treatment or prevention of conditions in which an inhibitor of alpha-4 integrin mediated cell adhesion is beneficial which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a safe and effective amount of compound of formula (I).

Applicants respectfully traverse and submit that there exists no undue administrative burden for the Examiner to search and consider all claims in their entirety. In addition, Applicants submit that the present claims are linked so as to form a single general inventive concept pursuant to PCT rule 13.1. Regardless, in an effort to be fully responsive, Applicants hereby elect Group I, directed at claims 1-12, 13-15, 16 and 20. This is an election with traverse.

Moreover, Applicants further select as a species, the compound of example 1, that is a compound according to the following formula.



In view of the above, favorable action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Additionally, Applicants hereby reserve the right to request rejoinder of any non-elected method claims which include all limitations of any subsequently allowable product claim.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments kindly contact Craig A. McRobbie (no.42,874), at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 12, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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